

Rec'd PCT 21 MAR 2005

10/528467

PCT/AU03/01231



[Handwritten signature]

Patent Office
Canberra

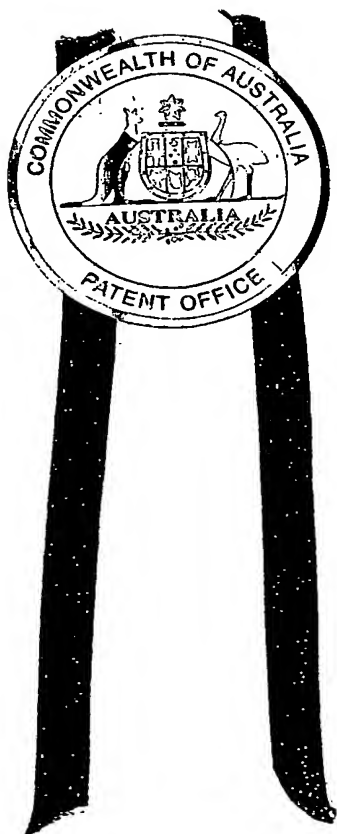
REC'D 15 OCT 2003	
WIPO	PCT

I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2002951529 for a patent by SALAVATORE MASSIMINO as filed on 20 September 2002.

WITNESS my hand this
Third day of October 2003

[Handwritten signature: J. Yabsley]

JONNE YABSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES



**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

Best Available Copy

Regulation 3.

Salvatore Massimino

A U S T R A L I A
Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

for the invention entitled:

"Line Securing Device"

The invention is described in the following statement:

- 1 -

LINE SECURING DEVICE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 This invention relates to a device and method for use with fishing rods. In particular, the invention relates to a device and method for securing a fishing leader and/or terminal tackle during storage or transport.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10

When ready for use, a fishing rod is typically rigged with a reel holding a spooled fishing line which is passed through a series of runners before being tied to items of terminal tackle such as sinkers, swivels, hooks and lures. A person fishing "rigs up" by assembling the reel on the rod and tying the terminal tackle in position in
15 any preferred configuration.

15

If a fisherman elects to move position, he or she must decide whether to remove the terminal tackle while moving or, as commonly occurs, attempt to secure it to the rod. Methods such as attaching a hook to a runner and then tensioning the
20 line are commonly used. Alternatively, the line may be wound around a feature of the reel in an effort to secure its position. However, these methods have a number of deficiencies. When a line is tensioned by bowing of the rod it is common for a sinker to bounce around as a person walks. The bouncing sinker may impact against the rod causing damage to an outer coating or alternatively may cause
25 dislodging of the hook leading to a swinging pendulum effect of the terminal tackle presenting an obvious risk to a person holding the rod and to bystanders.

25

This problem is exaggerated in relation to the storage of rods on vehicles such as four wheel drive recreational vehicles. It is common for fishermen to use four
30 wheel drive vehicles for accessing surf beaches and headlands. Commonly, a rod holding bracket will be mounted on the vehicle and particularly on accessories

30

- 2 -

such as bull bars, with a recessed open cylinder adapted to receive an end of a fishing rod. The rod then extends backwards and over the roof of the vehicle to be in position when the vehicle moves either along a made road such as a highway or on a beach. When fishing for highly mobile species such as salmon and tailor it is
5 often necessary to change position frequently in order to locate and stay with a school of feeding fish. When a fisherman needs to enter the vehicle quickly and change position as well as exit and recommence fishing quickly, it is important to be able to retain a rigged up fishing rod which is easily accessible. When the terminal tackle is fixed purely by resilience of the hook it is, as noted above,
10 possible for the hook to dislodge leading to a pendulum like effect in a sinker on the line. This presents an extra level of risk on vehicles as a heavy lead sinker may damage a vehicle outer body and even crack a windscreen or head light.

It would be advantageous to provide a device for securely restraining a fishing
15 leader particularly if such a device is easy to operate.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word
20 "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element or integer or group of elements or integers but not the exclusion of any other element or integer or group of elements or integers.

25 In one form, although it need not be the only or indeed the broadest form, the invention resides in a line securing device for use with the fishing rod, the line securing device comprising:

- a body;
- a first aperture adapted to engage a fishing rod; and
- 30 a second aperture spaced from the first aperture and adapted to releasably engage a fishing line and/or an item of terminal tackle.

- 3 -

The body may be formed with an upper surface, a lower surface and with an intermediate side wall. The side wall may be continuous. The body may be substantially cylindrical in shape.

- 5 The first aperture is preferably adapted to releasably engage the fishing rod. The first aperture may be formed as a bore. The bore may interconnect the upper and lower surfaces. Preferably, the bore is slotted. The bore may be substantially cylindrical and may be located adjacent an outer perimeter of the body. The slot is preferably adapted to provide access to the bore for a shaft of the rod. The edges
10 of the slot may be resiliently deformable.

A wall of the bore may be formed substantially cylindrically. Alternatively, the wall may be configured as a transected cone.

- 15 The second aperture may be spaced diametrically opposite the first aperture. The second aperture may be formed as a bore. The bore may interconnect the upper and lower surfaces. The second aperture is preferably slotted with the slot dimensioned to permit passage of the fishing leader. A wall defining the second aperture may be configured substantially cylindrically. Preferably the wall defining
20 the second aperture has a sloping side walls and may form a transected cone. The second aperture may include a seat.

- In a preferred embodiment, the body is formed from a resiliently deformable material such as a polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyethylene, polyurethane or other
25 hard wearing material. The body is most preferably adapted to provide compression of the second aperture slot as a result of expansion of the first aperture slots. The body may include a pivot zone to provide this function. The pivot zone may be formed by appropriate relative location of the first and second apertures.

30

In a further aspect, the invention resides in a method of restraining a fishing leader

- 4 -

comprising the steps of:

placing a line securing device according to the above description on a fishing rod;

5 placing a terminal fishing leader and/or item of terminal tackle in the second aperture;

sliding the device in a direction of increasing rod shaft diameter and thereby compressing the aperture into restraining contact with the fishing leader and/or item of terminal tackle.

10 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a line securing device of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top view of the device of Figure 1.

15

Figure 3 is a bottom view of the device of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a side view of the device of Figure 2 as seen in the direction of arrow A.

20 Figure 5 is a side view of the device of Figure 2 as seen in the direction of arrow B.

Figure 6 is a side view of the device of Figure 2 seen in the direction of arrow C.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25

Referring to Figure 1, there is seen a line securing device 10 formed according to the present invention. The device 10 has a first aperture 11 and a second aperture 12. The first aperture 11 and second aperture 12 are both formed as bores which connect an upper surface 13 and lower surface 14 (seen in Figure 3)

30 which are substantially parallel and spaced by intermediate side wall 15.

- 5 -

The first aperture 11 is positioned adjacent an outer perimeter of the device 10 and communicates externally with the device 10 through first slot 15 which is defined by opposed jaws 17, 18.

- 5 The first aperture is dimensioned to engage the shaft of a fishing rod. The jaws 17, 18 are preferably resiliently deformable so that the device 10 may be positioned on a shaft of the fishing rod by lateral force causing deflection of the jaws 17, 18 and positioning the shaft in the first aperture 11. The arrangement provides an easy procedure for mounting the device 10 on the fishing rod and also
10 for removing it. It should be understood that a number of different arrangements will fulfil the same requirement. For example, a gate mechanism may be provided for entry into the first aperture 11. The gate mechanism may be in the form of a plurality of flexible fingers either overlapping or in proximity. In one embodiment, the first aperture may be closed and the device may be permanently mounted on
15 the shaft of the fishing rod.

- The second aperture 12 also communicates with the exterior of the device 10 through a second slot 19 which is defined by adjacent jaws 20, 21. The second aperture is adapted to engage a fishing leader and/or a piece of terminal tackle
20 such as a sinker or even a lure. In operation, the leader is passed through slot 19 and a sinker is located in aperture 12. The sinker may be forced into the aperture 12 which is formed as a truncated cone. It is preferable that in operation the upper surface 13 is directed away from the ground so that gravity will assist in obtaining a sinker in the aperture 12. It is clear that a variety of different configurations may
25 be used for the second aperture. For example, it may be forced simply as a narrow slit into which a fishing leader is forced and thereby secured. Alternatively, it may be formed in a shape suitable to receive a fishing lure or other device.

- In a preferred embodiment, the device 10 is formed from a resilient material such
30 as polyethylene, polyurethane, or similar material. With such a construction in the location of the two apertures 11, 12 forms an internal bridge 20 which also forms a

- 6 -

flexion zone for the device. This results in the function that expansion of the first aperture 11 with consequential increased separation of the jaws 17, 18 leads to a compression of the second aperture 12 and consequent narrowing of slot 19 due to approach of the adjacent jaws 20, 21.

5

In a method of operation, the first aperture 11 is located around a shaft of the fishing rod. An item such as a sinker is located in the aperture 12 and the device is then slid down the rod in a direction of increasing shaft diameter. As the shaft increases in size it wedges against the walls of the first aperture 11 and distends
10 the aperture and slot 16 during advancement of the device. A consequent action is to cause the aperture 12 to compress and lock on to an item held within it. The sloping walls of the second aperture 12 provide a range of different diameters for receiving different size and shaped sinkers such as barrel sinkers, ball sinkers and snapper leads.

15

Figure 2 shows a top view of the device of Figure 1 and highlights the narrowing in of the walls of the first aperture 12 to provide a decreasing bore diameter. It is also clear in this view, that the internal bridge 22 is a narrowed area of the device which provides a flexion or rotation zone permitting expansion of the first aperture
20 11 with associated compression of the second aperture 12.

Figure 3 shows a bottom view of the device highlighting the decreased dimensions of the aperture 12 on the lower surface 14.

25 Figure 4 is a side view in the direction of arrow A of Figure 2 shown in hidden detail the truncated conical nature of the second aperture 12 and the substantially cylindrical nature of the first aperture 11.

Figure 5 is a side view of the device in the direction of arrow B in Figure 2 showing
30 the narrow slot 19 which leads into the sloped walls of the second aperture 12 shown in hidden detail. Both overlay the first aperture 11 also shown in hidden

- 7 -

detail.

Finally, Figure 6 shows a view of the device of Figure 2 in the direction of arrow 7 showing the significantly large dimensions of the first slot 16 relative to the second slot 19 shown in hidden detail.

The present invention provides a distinct advantage to fishermen who wish to carry or store their fishing rod rigged. It provides equally significant advantages to fishermen who wish to transport their fishing rods in a rigged state either on a vehicle or in a vessel. The device adds increased safety to operation of a fishing rig as well as providing greater utility in operation. If a fisherman arrives at a site of high intensity fishing interaction such as when taylor are "on the bite", he may grab his fishing rod which may already be baited but certainly is already rigged, release the leader, rotate the present device through 180 degrees to remove it from the field of fishing rod operation and cast, all within a matter of seconds.

The device may include one or more additional apertures for receiving different shaped or sized sinkers or hooks thereby increasing its utility. The device may include one or more apertures for receiving the points or hooks to add additional security to restraint of a fishing leader by providing the initial restraint on an item such as a sinker and double securing device by locating a hook within an aperture. In some formulations, the material forming the device may be sufficiently soft for penetration of its outer surfaces by a hook point.

The line securing device may be formed in a range of sizes to engage different sized rod shafts. For example, a kit of securing devices may be provided sized, for example, to suit an estuary rod, a surf rod and a boat rod. Different sizes may be indicated by forming the devices in different colours, preferably highly visible colours such as fluorescent yellow, blue and red to indicate 3 different sizes.

30

Throughout the specification the aim has been to describe the preferred

- 8 -

embodiments of the invention without limiting the invention to any one embodiment or specific collection of features. Those of skill in the art will therefore appreciate that, in light of the instant disclosure, various modifications and changes can be made in the particular embodiments exemplified without departing from the scope
5 of the present invention. All such modifications and changes are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

DATED this 20th day of September 2002

Salvatore Massimino

10 by DAVIES COLLISON CAVE

Patent Attorneys for the Applicants

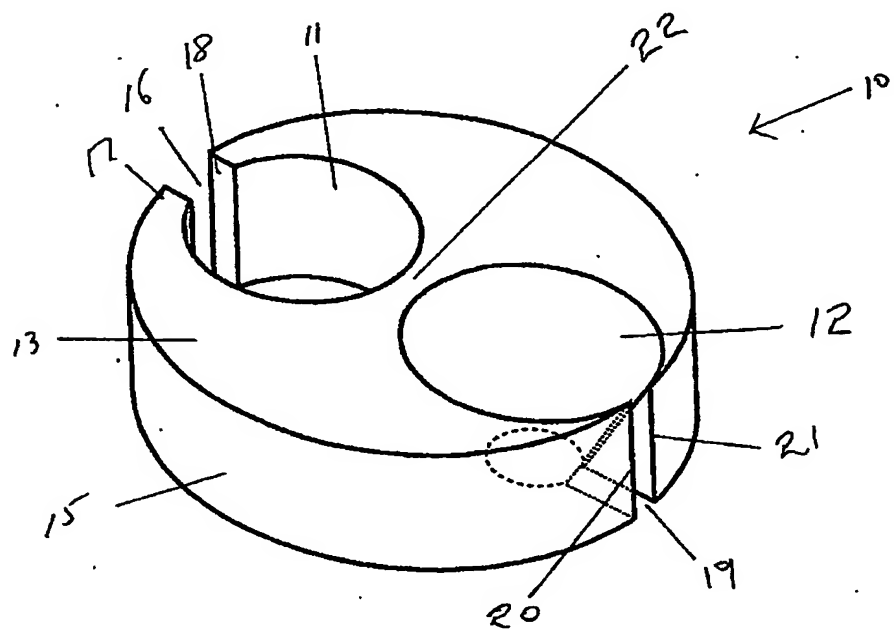


FIGURE 1

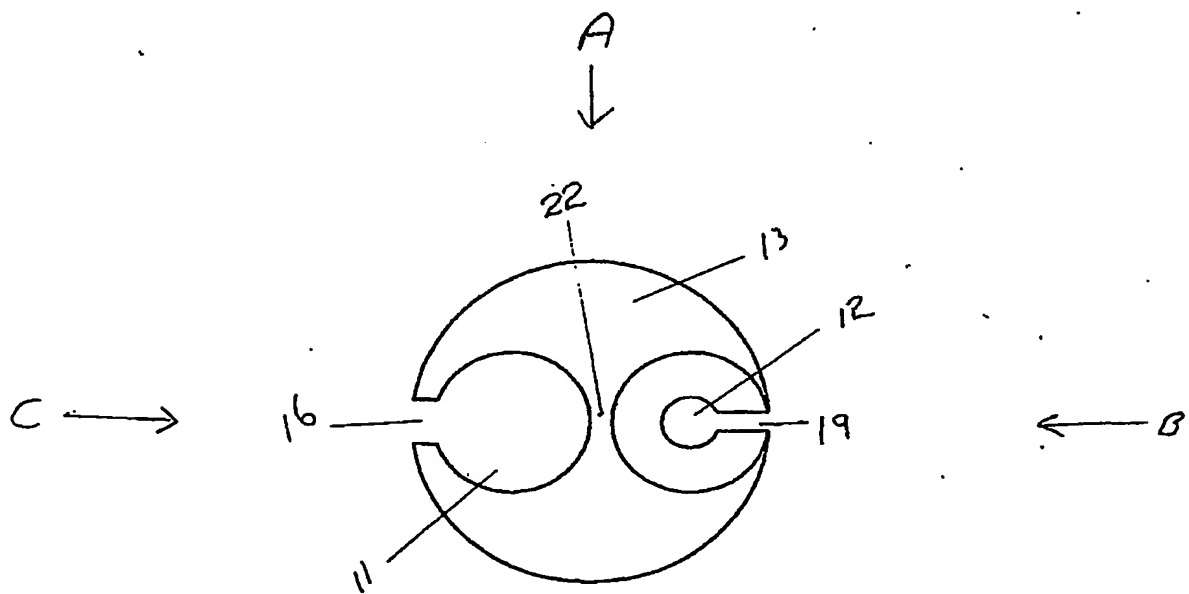


FIGURE 2

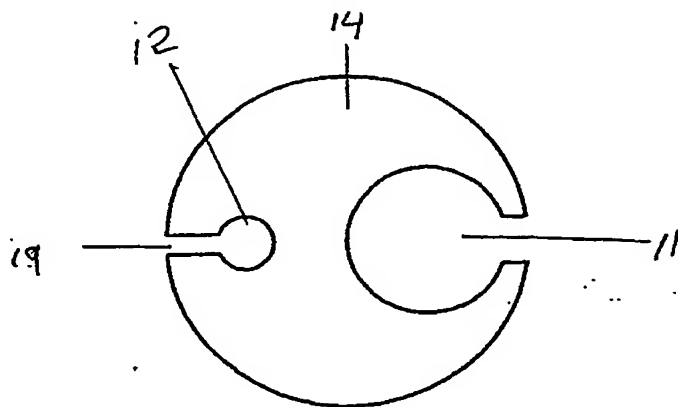


FIGURE 3

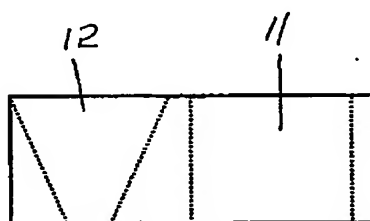


FIGURE 4

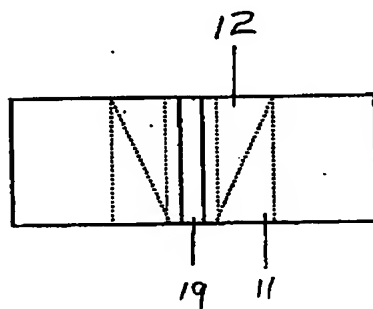


FIGURE 5

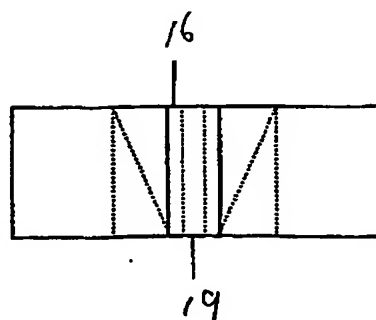


FIGURE 6

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☒ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☒ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☒ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☒ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☒ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.